

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR WESTERN WISCONSIN COUNTIES AUGUST 2001



Higher Unemployment Rates

A note to subscribers of the Western Wisconsin Employment Review/Labor Market Review:

The new *Workforce Observations for Western Wisconsin Counties* supercedes the *Employment Review/Labor Market Review* as a current and timely labor market information source for the eight county Western Wisconsin region. The data reported in the new version will be for the month previous to the publication date, e. g., this August 2001 issue will report local area data for the month of July 2001. In the previous format, the reported data lagged two calendar months. We are confident that this will serve as a more timely compendium of local labor market and other economic information.

Workforce Observations condenses from four pages to a two-page format. Volume and issue number will no longer be contained as the review will be labeled only by month and year. The most current labor force and non-farm wage and salary employment figures will continue to be displayed comparing month-ago and year-ago figures. Analysis of the current labor market will be also be offered along with the data. This will be mailed roughly the last week of every month within days of the official release of the labor force data.

July Labor Scene

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the **La Crosse Metropolitan Area** was unchanged during July at 3.4 percent. The present rate is one-tenth of a percentage point higher than The July 2000 rate of 3.5 percent.

Seasonal unemployment rates at both the state and national level remained unchanged in July as well but were up as compared to the same month last year. Increases in the La Crosse Metro unemployment rate as compared to last year have been less dramatic than changes at the state or national level largely because of La Crosse's more diverse industrial base. Layoffs have been primarily in the manufacturing sector this year. La Crosse's more diversified industrial base lessens the impact of layoffs in any one sector.

The unadjusted unemployment rate for Western Wisconsin is up 0.4 percentage points as compared to last

July. The increase in unemployment in Western Wisconsin reflects what is occurring in the rest of the state only the changes are more somewhat less dramatic. Much of the increase in unemployment statewide was related to a greater number of layoffs in manufacturing due to a decline in the demand for manufactured goods. La Crosse and Monroe Counties, together comprising 54 percent of Western Wisconsin's labor force, have economically diverse local economies and layoffs in manufacturing are less detrimental.

The two counties in Western Wisconsin with the highest percentage of manufacturing employment, Juneau and Trempealeau and Juneau, are also posting unemployment rates much higher than were recorded in July 2000. Trempealeau's rate is 0.7 percentage points higher, and Juneau's is 1.2 percent higher than in the same month a year ago.

Even with the recent reductions in manufacturing employment, the number of jobs in the region remains greater than one year ago and the number of employed

residents is higher. Out of a total labor force in July 2001 of about 160,000 roughly 153,200 were employed and 6,500 were unemployed, and that produced an unemployment rate of 4.1 percent. In July of 2000, the region's unadjusted unemployment rate was 3.7 percent.

The year-to-year increase in the Western Wisconsin labor force was just over 8,100. According to the Nonfarm Wage and Salary survey, there were about 2,500 more jobs located in the eight

county area this July. Offsetting losses of almost 1,100 in manufacturing jobs, were notable gains of 1,200 in retail, 900 in services, 250 in construction, and 300 in transportation.

In the eight county Western Wisconsin area, government employment fell by roughly 1,600 in July 2001, as compared to June 2001. Its unlikely that any sizeable portion of this decrease was due to permanent declines in staffing levels. Most of these layoffs were due to school year employees leaving work for summer break.

Labor Force Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted)			
	LaCrosse MSA*	Wisconsin (000s)	United States (000s)
Current month: July 2001			
Civilian Labor Force	75,300	3,056.9	141,774
Employment	72,800	2,923.2	135,379
Unemployment	2,500	133.7	6,395
Unemployment rate	3.4%	4.4%	4.5%
Change from one month ago			
Civilian Labor Force	1,600	5.9	420
Employment	1,600	5.7	447
Unemployment	0	0.2	(27)
Unemployment rate	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Change from one year ago			
Civilian Labor Force	3,500	124.5	1,228
Employment	3,300	99.9	481
Unemployment	200	24.6	747
Unemployment rate	0.1%	0.7%	0.5%

Note: All estimates are preliminary and based on place of residence.
* La Crosse MSA Statistics include Houston County Minnesota

Western Wisconsin Employment Scene: July 2001

	Buffalo	Crawford	Jackson	Juneau	LaCrosse	Monroe	Trempealeau	Vernon	Region	Wisconsin
Civilian Labor Force*	8,457	10,889	13,022	11,049	63,792	21,919	15,648	14,929	159,705	3,128,287
Employed	8,151	10,440	12,533	10,198	61,649	20,975	14,929	14,361	153,236	2,990,451
Unemployed	306	449	489	851	2,143	944	719	568	6,469	137,836
Unemployment rate	3.6%	4.1%	3.8%	7.7%	3.4%	4.3%	4.6%	3.8%	4.1%	4.4%
Total, all industries**	4,928	8,084	9,070	9,073	69,040	18,378	12,716	8,410	139,699	2,855,612
Construction & Mining	158	251	1,121	352	2,890	697	445	413	6,327	141,187
Manufacturing	308	1,940	1,025	2,788	9,950	3,379	5,500	967	25,857	601,202
Transportation & Public Utilities	1,815	231	711	319	3,160	1,102	585	350	8,273	134,399
Wholesale Trade	185	180	111	195	4,680	917	426	514	7,208	140,389
Retail Trade	666	2,388	1,472	1,660	14,180	4,026	1,492	1,743	27,627	504,323
Finance,Insurance,Real Estate	157	208	234	240	3,000	622	317	388	5,166	154,325
Services	817	1,926	1,298	1,622	22,250	3,012	1,939	2,227	35,091	797,131
Government	822	960	3,098	1,897	8,930	4,623	2,012	1,808	24,150	382,656
Change from previous month										
Civilian Labor Force*	-30	77	-207	73	1,034	308	-130	-286	839	13,736
Employed	14	178	-161	174	1,176	313	-55	-210	1,429	17,514
Unemployed	-44	-101	-46	-101	-142	-5	-75	-76	-590	-3,778
Unemployment rate	-0.5%	-1.0%	-0.3%	-1.0%	-0.2%	-0.1%	-0.4%	-0.4%	-0.4%	-0.1%
Total, all industries**	-261	-33	-330	-30	110	-101	-353	-327	-1325	-26,643
Construction & Mining	-5	0	19	-1	100	21	14	7	155	3,887
Manufacturing	-1	-31	-15	-4	-70	-36	2	1	-154	1,670
Transportation & Public Utilities	-48	-9	-3	-7	20	7	-20	7	-53	-3,271
Wholesale Trade	-9	4	1	3	120	16	0	0	135	952
Retail Trade	-24	105	19	8	50	-7	-8	3	146	-1,384
Finance,Insurance,Real Estate	1	-1	-1	3	20	3	-4	2	23	1,003
Services	1	16	52	-5	10	-26	-35	-32	-19	759
Government	-176	-117	-402	-27	-140	-79	-302	-315	-1558	-30,259
Change from year ago										
Civilian Labor Force*	560	517	985	472	3,016	1,288	669	634	8,141	124,357
Employed	469	459	907	309	2,746	1,239	540	580	7,249	98,974
Unemployed	91	58	78	163	270	49	129	54	892	25,383
Unemployment rate	0.9%	0.4%	0.3%	1.2%	0.3%	0.0%	0.7%	0.2%	0.4%	0.7%
Total, all industries**	227	77	395	-21	1,330	516	-6	7	2,524	897
Construction & Mining	7	13	162	-1	-10	45	17	8	240	92
Manufacturing	-10	-137	23	-223	-580	-118	-87	41	-1,091	-24,751
Transportation & Public Utilities	180	58	-28	2	60	3	12	-3	283	2,075
Wholesale Trade	-2	0	-0	-30	280	54	-0	-11	290	-745
Retail Trade	35	260	8	8	390	454	-30	31	1,155	3,443
Finance,Insurance,Real Estate	3	6	-4	3	230	27	1	16	283	3,832
Services	25	74	147	-12	600	-34	-29	136	908	14,989
Government	-12	-197	88	232	360	85	112	-211	457	1,962

* Includes participants residing in area. ** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted.

Current month estimates are preliminary.

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI

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